

Summertown Bridge Bulletin, 4 October 2021

My first Real Bridge question is how do you send a message of thanks to the director – without actually calling him? Anyway, the first Monday RealBridge went very well. Congratulations to Paul & Roger, James & Valerie and Humaira & Sue who were in the first three places.

Dlr: East Vul: N/S	♠AKQ10 ♥Q9652 ♦K75 ♣6	Optimum NS -1440																																							
♠J9652 ♥73 ♦-- ♣AKQ987	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">W</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">North</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">e</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">2</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">a</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">s</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">South</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">s</td></tr> </table>	W	North	E	e	2	a	s	South	s	♠-- ♥AKJ108 ♦A10432 ♣1052																														
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There was some early excitement in hand 2. One pair got into 6♣, two were in 5♣, others in 3NT making, or heart contracts not making (look at the break!). A good hand for bidding practice.

Playing in 6♣ after the normal top spade lead, ruff it and (ignoring the strong temptation to do something with the hearts) play ♦A (throwing a spade) and ruff a diamond, ruff two more spades and two more diamonds, draw trumps and you just have one spade loser.

We were only in 5♣, just as well, as Mary-Ann cleverly did not lead from her enormous spades but led a trump, which ruins the above scheme. I think you can still do it by ruffing one spade,

ruffing a diamond, and then finessing the heart. When this holds you can still manoeuvre to ruff another spade and eventually throw the 4th spade on a heart. If the heart finesse loses and they lead another trump, you would be hoping to make the fifth heart at the end.

Dlr: South Vul: E/W	♠A98743 ♥A ♦K3 ♣AKJ8	Optimum NS +980																																							
♠102 ♥K732 ♦765 ♣6543	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">W</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">North</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">e</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">3</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">a</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">s</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">South</td><td style="background-color: #f0f0f0;">s</td></tr> </table>	W	North	E	e	3	a	s	South	s	♠K5 ♥QJ94 ♦QJ82 ♣1072																														
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This was followed immediately by hand 3, where there are a certain 12 tricks to be made in spades, but no one bid it. One lucky pair was in 3NT, also making 12 tricks and therefore getting a top – ‘lucky’ because an initial heart lead gives you a bottom!

A lead problem in hand 6. At 5 tables, West did not open, so South ended up in 1NT after North opened a spade. Three times West led the ♣A and South rolled home the contract. Twice West led a lower club - the 10 or 9 - and South went off.

There are certainly distributions where the ♣A would gain, but on balance, with a 5-card suit, it is probably better to lead a small one and be prepared to lose a trick – particularly when you have no certain entry into your hand (as it happens, here the K♥ is an entry).

With a 4-card suit headed by the AK, the balance tips towards leading the A: sometimes you might catch declarer or dummy with Qx opposite 3 small, but the main advantage is that it allows you to keep the lead and switch to another suit at trick 2 if that seems better.

Hand 6: Dlr: East, Vul: E/W. Optimum NS +80.

North: ♠KQ853, ♥J107, ♦A6, ♣J73

South: ♠764, ♥K84, ♦J8, ♣AK1098

West: ♠J92, ♥A95, ♦Q7432, ♣Q4

East: ♠A10, ♥Q632, ♦K1095, ♣652

Trick counts: 11, 11, 9, 9

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	-	1	1	-
S	-	-	1	1	-
E	1	-	-	-	-
W	1	-	-	-	-

Hand 9: Dlr: North, Vul: E/W. Optimum NS +140.

North: ♠1073, ♥A96, ♦KQJ103, ♣98

South: ♠Q9852, ♥J872, ♦76, ♣K2

West: ♠J64, ♥Q4, ♦42, ♣AQJ1043

East: ♠AK, ♥K1053, ♦A985, ♣765

Trick counts: 10, 6, 10, 14

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	-	4	3	-	1
S	-	4	3	-	1
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

An embarrassment for me in hand 9. Krys opened 1NT by South, passed round to me and for some unknown reason I passed, not bidding 2♣ which is natural in our system. So West had no reason to lead ♣K, which would have given us the first six tricks. As Krys reels off 9 tricks, our poor discarding first gives him two extra hearts, and then finally I manage to give him the 10♠ at the end. 12 tricks made, and zero MPs for us.

And finally an embarrassment for two other people on hand 11 (honestly I did not look and see who).

I (East) played this hand in hearts, getting the same (helpful) spade lead as everyone else. You cannot get into dummy to take the trump finesse even once, so you lose two hearts and two diamonds. “Two tables made 10 tricks,” my partner said meaningfully. Actually I made that up, he’s not like that, but some partners are. Anyway I have to look and see what I missed. At both tables East played ♥A and a small one and South went up with the King. Oh dear!

Hand 11: Dlr: South, Vul: None. Optimum NS -100.

North: ♠Q7632, ♥Q3, ♦K, ♣Q9872

South: ♠1098, ♥1087, ♦1062, ♣K1065

West: ♠AKJ, ♥AJ965, ♦QJ973, ♣--

East: ♠54, ♥K42, ♦A854, ♣AJ43

Trick counts: 9, 3, 16, 12

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	3	-	-	1	-
S	3	-	-	1	-
E	-	3	3	-	-
W	-	3	2	-	-